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MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(Department of Heavy Industries)

RESOLUTION

TARIFFS

*New Delhi, the 6th August 1957*

No. 13(3)-T.P./57.—The Tariff Commission has submitted its Report on the continuance of protection to the preserved Fruits Industry on the basis of an inquiry undertaken by it under Sections 11(e) and 13 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951. Its recommendations are as follows:—

- (1) Protection to the industry need not be continued beyond the 31st December, 1957, and with effect from the 1st January, 1958, the revenue duties on the items affected may be fixed at rates considered necessary by Government on revenue considerations. If, however, import control is substantially relaxed in future and imports of foreign products constitute a threat to the industry, domestic producers may then apply for reconsideration of their case.
- (2) The Commission has been informed of the Government's scheme for subsidising the supply of open top sanitary cans to the preserved fruits industry. Since the object of the subsidy on the price of tinplate is to cheapen the cost of indigenous preserved fruits to consumers, the Commission trusts that Government would take suitable measures to ensure that the beneficiary undertakes to maintain and improve the quality of its products and reduce its prices to the extent of the subsidy.
- (3) While negotiating trade agreements with foreign countries in future, preserved fruits should be included in the schedule of items for export from India as far as possible.
- (4) Should imported sugar become at any time substantially cheaper, Government should encourage its import by the preserved fruits industry so that its competitive strength in overseas markets is

not impaired. They should also finalise their scheme for rebate of import duty on sugar in respect of the preserved fruits industry.

- (5) The Indian Standards Institution should lay down, as quickly as possible, in consultation with the glass industry, the preserved fruits industry and the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, standard specifications for not only the composition of the glass but also the sizes and shapes of glass containers used in the preserved fruits industry. The Institution should, also, in collaboration with the interests concerned, formulate standard specifications for pilfer proof caps, closures and washers of glass containers as soon as possible.
- (6) Arrangements should be made by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, to record separately the import and export of different categories of preserved fruits in greater detail, as provided in Division 05-Section O of the revised Indian Trade Classification. If, however, the bringing into force of the revised classification is likely to take time, at least the heads and sub-heads of classification in division 05 referred to above should be introduced in the Accounts relating to the Foreign Trade and Navigation of India.
- (7) The State Governments concerned should take further and more comprehensive measures to encourage the grading of fruits and vegetables.
- (8) The Railway Administrations should take early steps to provide shelves in wagons carrying fresh fruits, vegetables and other perishables and also strengthen their Inspectorate to prevent pilferage and ensure careful handling of perishables in transit.
- (9) Since Railways have a very important part to play in any plan of horticultural development, they should try to remove all bottle-necks and difficulties in the way of quicker, cheaper and easier movement of fresh fruits to consuming centres.
- (10) Early steps should be taken by the Ministry of Agriculture, in consultation with the Ministry of Health, to define more clearly the specifications in the Fruit Products Order relating to equipment and machinery.
- (11) There should be stringent enforcement of the Fruit Products Order and the Inspectorate should be adequately strengthened for this purpose.
- (12) A few laboratories, on regional basis, should be established for carrying out analysis on samples of preserved fruits.
- (13) The Agricultural Marketing Adviser should prepare a list of approved factories belonging to the first category comprising the units which are satisfactory in all respects and produce standard quality products, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Director of Army Purchase and the Canteen Stores Department and circulate it to all important consumers of canned and bottled fruit products, such as hoteliers, railway caterers, Canteen Stores Department, Director of Army Purchase, etc.
- (14) The Agricultural Marketing Adviser should impress on the factories in the approved list the desirability of accepting every year a few trainees from the Central Food Technological

Research Institute, Mysore, the Department of Chemical Technology, Bombay, the Jadavpur University, Calcutta, and the Kerala Polytechnic, Calicut, as apprentices for practical training.

- (15) Government's present policy of purchasing the entire requirements of Defence Services in respect of preserved fruits from the domestic industry should be continued.
- (16) The preserved fruits industry should try to use sugar manufactured by the carbonation process in order to find out whether the blackening and feathering of containers can be avoided by its use.
- (17) The Metal Box Co. of India Ltd., should be requested once again to reduce the price of open top sanitary cans to the maximum extent possible.
- (18) The Metal Box Co. of India Ltd., should give as long a notice as possible to Government of any variation of its prices so that if the change proposed is, *prima facie*, unreasonable, Government may intervene in the matter.

2. Government accept recommendation (1) and will take suitable steps to implement it in due course.

3. Government have taken note of recommendations (2) to (4) and (8) to (12) and suitable steps will be taken to implement them as far as possible.

4. Government also accept recommendations (5), (13) to (15) and (17) and steps will be taken to implement them as far as possible.

5. Regarding recommendation (6), detailed statistics of import and exports of different categories of preserved fruits as recommended by the Commission, are already being published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, in the "Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India" from January, 1957.

6. Recommendation (7) has been noted by Government and the State Governments concerned will be addressed suitably in the matter.

7. The attention of the preserved fruits industry and the Metal Box Co. of India Ltd., is invited to recommendations (16), (17) and (18).

#### ORDER

Ordered that the Resolution be published in the Gazette of India and a copy of it be communicated to all concerned.

S. RANGANATHAN, Secy.

